

Draft Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee October 26, 2011
McCarran International Airport

Attending

Vikki Dee Bradshaw	Linda Carbone	Katie Cherry	Chuck Cullom
Tom Dougherty	Terry Fulp	Maureen George	Jayne Harkins
Bill Lamb	Tricia McCraw	Terry Murphy	Judi Nielsen
Theresa Olson	Chuck Paradzick	Tom Pradetto	Sara Price
Larry Purcell	Michelle Reilly	Terry Sue Rossi	Jon Sjoberg
John Swett	Dale Turner	Laura Vecerina	Eric Volkman
Doyle Wilson			

Attending Via Conference Call

Tab Bommarito	Grant Buma	Lesley Fitzpatrick	Doug Fant
Chris Harris	John Mayfield	Wade Noble	Stephen Olander
Dana Sedig	Fred Worthley		

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson Chris Harris. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve June 22, 2011 Meeting Notes

The June 22, 2011 meeting notes were approved. (Moved by Chuck Cullom, seconded by Maureen George, and approved by consensus.)

New Member – Chemehuevi Indian Tribe – Resolution 12-001

The Chair noted the letter from the Tribe requesting renewed membership in the Committee.

(Moved by Maureen George, seconded by Jon Sjoberg, and adopted by consensus.)

2. WORK PLANS AND BUDGET

FY11 Program Update – Laguna Division Conservation Area

John Swett said that construction on the Laguna Division Conservation Area was proceeding as planned. He noted that due to the acquisition of Planet Ranch not occurring last year Reclamation had the ability to upfront fund equipment rental for the Laguna construction. John indicated that this funding increased the amount obligated in FY11 for this project, but that funding in future years would be reduced.

FY12 Program

John Swett reported that Reclamation received the August 18, 2011 letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepting the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishment Report and determining that the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2012 Work Plan and Budget meets the conservation requirements and is consistent with the LCR MSCP Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit and biological opinion.

John Swett reported that Reclamation was currently under a continuing resolution and that Reclamation would not receive its full budget until an appropriations bill was passed. He indicated that the LCR MSCP did have enough funding to initiate work outlined in the FY12 Work Plan.

John reviewed non-federal contributions to date and noted that all had been received.

Remedial Measures Fund Update

John Swett presented a draft work task for the establishment of a remedial measures fund. This work task would set aside funding, based on HCP Table 7-1, to be used in the event of changed circumstances as identified in Section 5.12.3 in the HCP. There was agreement that more discussion was needed on how this concept would work, and John committed to setting up a conference call after Thanksgiving to discuss the concept further.

3. HABITAT CREATION CONSERVATION MEASURE ACCOMPLISHMENT TRACKING PROCESS

Resolution 12-002

John Swett reviewed Resolution 12-002 which outlined the process used to develop the Habitat Creation Conservation Measure Accomplishment Tracking Process. He noted that the document had been through a number of reviews by the Technical Work Group. John indicated that this was the process that Reclamation would be using to determine Habitat Creation Conservation Measure accomplishment. A question was asked whether Reclamation would be claiming

creditable acres for next year. John indicated that Reclamation would do an evaluation and any creditable acreage would be contained in next year's Work Plan.

There was general discussion and a recommendation to add a sentence on page three, under Tracking Process, after sentence two: "Sites may be creditable as a management unit consisting of a full conservation area or a portion thereof". (Moved by Maureen George with recommended change, seconded by Chuck Cullom, and adopted by consensus).

4. PROJECT UPDATES

E29: Desert Tortoise

John Swett noted that Reclamation had received the August 18, 2011 letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurring with the completion of Conservation Measure DETO1 for the Desert Tortoise.

E21: Planet Ranch

Laura Vecerina provided a current status of securing Planet Ranch for the LCR MSCP. She indicated that the City of Scottsdale was planning to pursue sale of the property to Freeport. A group, consisting of the Regional and State Directions from FWS, BOR, BLM, and AGFD had been meeting with Freeport to work out issues related to the paper transfer of a portion of the water rights and a lease/donation agreement. The group had been meeting for over a year and had resolved most of the issues. One concern still remaining was how the transfer could affect tribal water rights. Freeport had the task to work on this issue with the tribe. Those discussions are still ongoing.

I1: Public Outreach

Michelle Reilly gave a presentation on the new LCR MSCP Web Site. The site was designed to make finding information easier. There is a section specifically set aside for Steering Committee information. She said that we were still testing the site and if anyone had any comments or suggestions, to provide them to her. Laura Vecerina indicated that an FY11 Accomplishment Report was being prepared to document outreach activities. She also said that a FY12 Action Plan was being developed. One focus area for this next year will be developing outreach plans for the conservation area sites.

4. PROCESS UPDATES

John Swett said that both Reclamation and FWS were working on a draft process for use of the Habitat Maintenance Fund. He hoped to have this document out for review by the Steering Committee review next spring. John also indicated that staff was working on developing the

next Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities Report (2013-2017). Once a draft is completed, it will be sent out for Steering Committee review.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina reviewed upcoming meetings for the Steering Committee. There will be a Financial Work Group Conference Call on February 23, 2012; a Work Group Meeting in March 2012; and the next Steering Committee Meeting is April 25, 2012.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

Theresa Olson provided an update on the proposed Re-designation of Critical Habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. She said that the LCR MSCP had provided comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She said that the next step will be for the Service to conduct an environmental assessment and economic impact determination. Theresa also gave a status of the salt cedar beetle. She indicated that the beetle has reached the Virgin and Muddy Rivers at Lake Mead. She said the next question will be how long it will take them to jump the lake move downstream.

7. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on two items.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

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